

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer implemented method comprising:
 - 2 retrieving an enhanced presence ping bit;
 - 3 identifying that the enhanced presence ping bit is
 - 4 enabled, wherein the enablement of the enhanced
 - 5 presence ping bit corresponds to an enhanced presence
 - 6 ping mode;
 - 7 collecting enhanced status information based upon the
 - 8 identification; and
 - 9 sending the enhanced status information to an access
 - 10 point over a wireless network.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 determining that a timer is enabled, the timer
 - 3 corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced
 - 4 status information;
 - 5 detecting that the enabled timer has expired; and
 - 6 performing the collecting and the sending in response
 - 7 to the detecting.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - 2 receiving a ping request from the access point; and
 - 3 performing the collecting and the sending in response
 - 4 to receiving the ping request.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the enhanced status
- 2 information is selected from the group consisting of a
- 3 total packet number, a signal strength, and a system
- 4 power state.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving an enhanced presence ping control packet
3 from the access point; and
4 enabling the enhanced presence ping bit in response to
5 receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the access point is
2 adapted to send the enhanced presence ping control
3 packet in response to receiving an administrator
4 request from an administrator, and wherein the access
5 point is also adapted to provide the collected
6 enhanced status information to the administrator.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the wireless network
2 functions as a shared transmission medium.

1 8. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by
5 the processors;
6 one or more registers;
7 one or more timers; and
8 a enhanced presence ping tool for providing enhanced
9 status information, the enhanced presence ping tool
10 comprising software code effective to:
11 retrieve an enhanced presence ping bit from
12 one of the registers;

13 identify that the enhanced presence ping bit
14 is enabled, wherein the enablement of the
15 enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an
16 enhanced presence ping mode;
17 collect enhanced status information from one
18 of the nonvolatile storage devices based
19 upon the identification; and
20 send the enhanced status information to an
21 access point over a wireless network.

1 9. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the
2 software code is further effective to:
3 determine that one of the timers is enabled, the timer
4 corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced
5 status information;
6 detect that the enabled timer has expired; and
7 perform the collecting and the sending in response to
8 the detecting.

1 10. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the
2 software code is further effective to:
3 receive a ping request from the access point; and
4 perform the collecting and the sending in response to
5 receiving the ping request.

1 11. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the
2 enhanced status information is selected from the group
3 consisting of a total packet number, a signal
4 strength, and a system power state.

1 12. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the
2 software code is further effective to:
3 receive an enhanced presence ping control packet from
4 the access point; and
5 enable the enhanced presence ping bit in response to
6 receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

1 13. The information handling system of claim 12 wherein
2 the access point is adapted to send the enhanced
3 presence ping control packet in response to receiving
4 an administrator request from an administrator, and
5 wherein the access point is also adapted to provide
6 the collected enhanced status information to the
7 administrator.

1 14. A program product comprising:
2 computer operable medium having computer program code,
3 the computer program code being effective to:
4 retrieve an enhanced presence ping bit;
5 identify that the enhanced presence ping bit
6 is enabled, wherein the enablement of the
7 enhanced presence ping bit corresponds to an
8 enhanced presence ping mode;
9 collect enhanced status information based
10 upon the identifying; and
11 send the enhanced status information to an
12 access point over a wireless network.

1 15. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software
2 code is further effective to:

3 determine that a timer is enabled, the timer
4 corresponding to a time at which to send the enhanced
5 status information;
6 detect that the enabled timer has expired; and
7 perform the collecting and the sending in response to
8 the detecting.

1 16. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software
2 code is further effective to:
3 receive a ping request from the access point; and
4 perform the collecting and the sending in response to
5 receiving the ping request.

1 17. The program product of claim 14 wherein the enhanced
2 status information is selected from the group
3 consisting of a total packet number, a signal
4 strength, and a system power state.

1 18. The program product of claim 14 wherein the software
2 code is further effective to:
3 receive an enhanced presence ping control packet from
4 the access point; and
5 enable the enhanced presence ping bit in response to
6 receiving the enhanced presence ping control packet.

1 19. The program product of claim 18 wherein the access
2 point is adapted to send the enhanced presence ping
3 control packet in response to receiving an
4 administrator request from an administrator, and
5 wherein the access point is also adapted to provide

6 the collected enhanced status information to the
7 administrator.

1 20. The program product of claim 14 wherein the wireless
2 network functions as a shared transmission medium.